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## Public Meeting Set for Dec. 9 on Cameron Village, Hillsborough Street Small Area Plans

Residents are invited to attend a public meeting on the Cameron Village and Hillsborough Street Small Area plans. The public meeting, hosted by the City of Raleigh, will be held on Dec. 9 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Pittman Auditorium at St. Mary's School, 900 Hillsborough St.

At the public meeting, participants will listen to the initial findings of the consultant team for the small area plans, share insights on areas of concern, and share visions of development, design and circulation improvements for the areas.

The Cameron Village and Hillsborough Street Small Area plans are efforts by the City to best accommodate for ongoing redevelopment and public improvements for the areas.

For more information, contact Bynum Walter at 919-996-2178.

## Customer Alert: Utility Billing Scam Aimed at Local Businesses

Three hotels in the Raleigh area recently received phone calls from people claiming to be City of Raleigh Utility Billing employees, who said they were calling regarding disconnection of service. The caller stated that payment must be made immediately or service will be interrupted. The calls were made from a toll free number. The City of Raleigh advises that these calls are not being made by any City of Raleigh employee, nor are there any companies contracted by the City of Raleigh to collect on the City's behalf. The City of Raleigh does not call customers regarding delinquent bills. Notification letters are mailed directly to the customer.

If you have a question about your account information, contact Utility Billing Services at 919-890-3245 and use the automated system or speak with a customer service representative.

If you feel that you may be a victim of this scam, please contact:

- City of Raleigh Police Department, Non-Emergency Call Center at 919-831-6311 to file a report.
- If the caller threatens you or your business in any way, please dial 9-1-1 immediately.

Scams of all varieties typically increase during the holiday season. Please be alert and protect yourself. Additional information on how to avoid consumer scams is provided at:

- NC Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General at 919-716-6400 or visit their website for tips on how to Avoid Consumer Scams.
- Check out a company with Attorney General Roy Cooper's Consumer Protection Division at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM before doing business with them.

## Raleigh Sister Cities Sino-African Initiative Partnership Receives Award from United Nations

A Sino-African Initiative (SAI) of Sister Cities International received the "2014 South-South Cooperation for Partnership" Award from the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on November 1. The Office of South-South Cooperation is a broad framework for collaboration among countries of the southern hemisphere in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains. The projects are initiated, organized and managed by developing countries.

The Sister Cities partnerships participating in the program include those between the African, American and Chinese cities of: Osogbo, Nigeria; Xiangyang, China; Raleigh and Asheville; Nairobi, Kenya; Kunming, China; and Denver; and Zomba, Malawi; Urbana, Ill. and Haizhu District, China. The ceremonies took place at the Global South-South Development Expo in Washington, D.C., on November 21.

The unique two-year SAI program, that ended earlier this year, was designed to address the manner in which Chinese, African, and U.S. cities can collaborate on economic development and urban poverty issues in Africa. By working with Chinese, African, and U.S. public diplomacy networks, local municipal governments and businesses, this initiative aimed to create strategies that ensured development and poverty alleviation projects that address community needs, and promoted transparent business practices and government accountability. SAI was recognized for its innovation as a unique program that leveraged trilateral, North-South-South partnerships.

The South-South Awards, established in 2010, honor governments, organizations, and individuals who make significant contributions to technology and innovation that successfully address sustainable development goals while looking forward to a future built on strong South-South cooperation.

"The award recognizes years of hard work that our staff and Sister Cities program members put in to ensure this program was a success," said James "Monte" Montague, Raleigh Sister Cities' China Country Committee chairman. "Raleigh Sister Cities is very pleased to have been able to contribute to the success of this unique program."

For more information about the Sino-African Initiative, please visit [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org) or contact Megha Swamy at 202-347-8637. For more information about Raleigh Sister Cities, visit [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov) and enter "Raleigh Sister Cities" in the search window.

## Join in Celebrating New Playground at Roberts Park Dec. 6

The City of Raleigh Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources Department invites area residents to join in celebrating the reopening of the playground at Roberts Park on Saturday, Dec. 6, 11:00 a.m. Roberts Park is located at 1300 East Martin Street.

The playground at Roberts Park was last renovated in 1991. The old playground encompassed approximately 7,500 square feet and had a sand safety surface. The age and condition of the equipment along with the sand surfacing that did not meet current accessibility standards for playgrounds prompted the renovation at Roberts Park. In general, public playgrounds in City parks have a usable life of between 10 and 15 years.

Total cost for the new playground is \$157,500. This project was funded from remaining 2003 and 2007 park bond funds along with a generous \$13,000 contribution from the Realtor Foundation of the Triangle. This is the second time this organization has partnered

with the City – a previous contribution of \$13,000 assisted with the renovation of the playground at Eastgate Park in 2011. The Realtor Foundation donation helped to fund the play unit for five to 12 years-old children at the new Roberts Park playground.

The new playground has two age separated play areas, one for children ages two to five years-old and one for children ages five to 12 years-olds. The new playground features a poured-in-place rubber safety surface which is fully accessible, and a new sidewalk connection to the playground that provides an accessible route of travel. On Oct. 10, members of the Realtor Foundation, the South Central Citizen Advisory Council and the community constructed the new playground with assistance from Parks Division staff and professional installers Triad Property Services, contracted through Gametime/Cunningham Recreation.

For more information, contact Wayne Schindler at 919-996-3285.

## City to Hold Public Hearing Dec. 2 on Mitchell Mill Road Widening

The Raleigh City Council will hold a public hearing on the planned widening of Mitchell Mill Road. The public hearing will be conducted on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in the council chamber at the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St. Citizens will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed widening at the public hearing.

The project would widen Mitchell Mill Road between Louisburg Road and Forestville Road to four lanes with a median and curb and gutter. The improvements include sidewalks, striped bike lanes and streetlights on both sides. Also included in this project are turn-lane improvements and culvert replacement at the Forestville Road intersection, and a water main installation.

Construction of the Mitchell Mill Road widening project was approved by Raleigh voters as part of a \$75 million transportation bond issue in 2013.

For more information, contact Chris Johnson at 919-996-4112.

## Street Closings

### First Friday Closings

On First Friday of each month, from 6 p.m. to midnight, the 00 block of Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and Wilmington Street will be closed. This closure will also include the south side sidewalk of the block.

**December 6** Traffic will be affected near Hillsborough Street from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. for a road race

**December 6** The 300 through 500 blocks of Fayetteville Street will be closed from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m.